MDARC CARRIER

Volume LII Number 2 WWW.MDARC.ORG February 2004

February Meeting

Friday, February 20
7:30 pm

*****

Contra Costa County Communications System

Steve Overacker

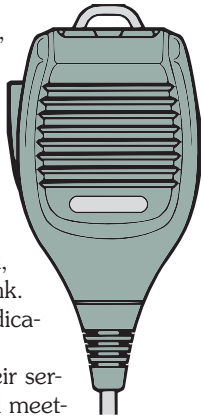
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA

Steve will discuss the improvements to the Contra Costa County communications system.

Presidential QRM

By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

Over fifty club members enjoyed a Tri-Tip dinner at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT, and George Roush, WB6OFH, need a huge thanks for another great dinner. There were five gift certificates to Sun Valley mall won by five lucky members. Don Prosnitz, KF6DJI, won the annual HRO donated radio. He will be receiving his new ICOM IC-T7H handheld as soon as possible.



The highlight of the dinner was annual awards. John Schulze, KR6CR, won the Kilroy Key for his busy year as PACIFICON chair and Auction chair. Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, won the Ham Of The Year for his many years of coordinating service events. Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q, won an Outstanding Service award for two years as membership chair. Thanks Eoin for so many improvements to the membership database, including renewal applications already filled out. Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, won a Pitch In award for his assistance in a smooth transfer of presidential responsibilities. Keith Lattin, N6PMF, and Howard Burk, KE6PTT, won two appreciation awards for their fine work on EchoLink. The club would not enjoy the fine W6CX repeater system without the dedication of these two members.

I would also like to thank the many other members that volunteer their services during the year. Every event from field day to the monthly general meeting could not be held without the volunteer services of our club membership.

Our next general meeting is February 20. Every meeting is a great social event.

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Aren't Hams Great?

By Dick Brown, KT6X

PACIFICON 2003, the Pacific Division Amateur Radio Convention concluded on October 19, in San Ramon California and one of the nicest stories about Hams helping Hams came out during the Saturday night banquet that demonstrates the caliber of the people that become amateur radio operators.

The story started in Spring 2003 when K.B. Sriram, KG6QQR, checked into the "9am Talk Net", the VHF net run at Stanford University, in Palo Alto, California. Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, was Net Control that morning. K.B announced he was looking for some help and asked if there was anyone who could calibrate his recently completed 40-meter QRP rig for him. Kristen jumped right in and suggested he bring the rig over to Sun Microsystems the following Sunday and she would get it calibrated. She offered to help since she had access to the frequency counters at the Sun research lab. They met that Sunday and after a few hours of reviewing the schematic and fixing some problems Kristen discovered in the QRP unit, it was successfully calibrated and working like a champ.

Now we skip forward a few months to October 18th at the pacificon convention. K.B. arrives at the registration desk and finds that his previously purchased admission ticket has somehow been misplaced. Seeing the sad look on his face, Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT, the Registration Chair for the Convention, offers KB an extra ticket she had purchased. "You are welcome to have it", she says. K.B. is very surprised. He thanks Tracey and proceeds to fill out the door prize drawing stub and drop it in the prize barrel. An hour later, Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, draws out the Grand Prize winning ticket. The winner wins a brand new handheld VHF transceiver. Well, you guessed it. The winner of the radio is K.B. He says to himself that he doesn't need another one of these. He goes over to Tracey at registration and offers the new radio to her since it was her ticket that won. Tracey says she doesn't need the radio. She suggested that he give it to someone one who really needs it.

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 932-6125

The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material my be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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Club Officers

President
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU (925) 680-5209
wa6jau@netzero.net

Vice President
Bob Beard, KG6FPZ
rbeard@speakeasy.net

Secretary
Dick Schulze, AA6DL
rmschulze@earthlink.net

Treasurer
Harold Johnsen, AE6FC (925) 287-1054
ae6fc@arrl.net

Emergency Coordinator
Dana Jones, K6BRR

Directors
Howard Burk, KE6PTT (925) 279-7208
ke6ptt@arrl.net
Jay Caldis, KT6Y (925) 939-1893
jcaldis@astound.net
Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE **(925) 820-5848**
Dick Brown, KT6X
dickjoanne@astound.net

Membership Chairman
Pete Slagle, K6XL (925) 901-0217
pete@k6xl.org

Carrier Editor
Jerry Gardner, W6UV (925) 735-7325
carrier@gardnerclan.net

Webmaster
Marvin Miller, WA6GBW (925) 829-3410

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Aren't Hams Great?

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Later that day K.B. runs into is now old friend Kristen McIntyre in the hall and reminds her how much he appreciated her help with the QRP rig a few months earlier. As they renew their friendship, Kristen admits she is a little nervous and she is sort of pacing the hallway. Her 11-year-old son, Christopher is taking his first license exam in the VE testing room. She indicates how concerned she is for Christopher and tells about the promise she made to him before he went in to take the test. She told him that if he passes the test, she would run into the convention exhibit hall and buy him a handheld VHF radio. K.B says maybe I can help and hands Kristen the now famous new handheld radio in its sealed box he had won earlier in the day. Of course, Christopher comes out of the testing room with that never to be forgotten smile. He had passed!

That evening at the pacficon banquet, Kristen and Christopher came to the podium and told the amazing story of coincidences, generosity and friendships. He was clutching the box with his new radio. Christopher is now KG6SVI.

Board Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Trevor Hall at 7:30 PM. In attendance were the following Board Members and several committee heads and members: Trevor Hall, President, Bob Beard, Vice President, Harold Johnsen, Treasurer, Dana Jones, Emergency Services Coordinator, Dick Brown, Director, Jay Caldis, Director, Terry Matzkin, Director.

The last Board minutes were not reviewed or approved. All attendees were introduced. Pete Schlagel was introduced as the newly appointed Membership Chairman.

The Treasurer reported that the cash on hand was approximately $50,000 including the PACIFICON account but he did not have the exact figures with him

A motion was made, seconded and approved to award the HRO annual radio to a primary member from a data base of all paid primary members at the Annual Party in January, whether such member is in attendance at the dinner or not.

The Board agreed that the 2004 Club Directories will be distributed at the monthly meetings for the two months following publication. Any member who has not received his directory at those meetings will have it sent to them by mail.

Trevor announced that the only planned new business agenda item was to review spending proposals and draft the 2004 budget. Considerable discussion was given to the budget and a new proposal for an internet connection for the club.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to fund a project to implement a broadband internet connection to advance the clubs ATV, EchoLink and future ham related activities. The funding is to be shown in the draft budget and presented to the club in February.

The Board approved a draft budget. The format needed to be improved and will be presented to the membership at the February Meeting.

The meeting was closed at 9:42 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dick Brown, Board Member and Acting Secretary.

MDARC 2004 Budget

Operating Income	2004
Membership Dues $45 X 280 Members	12,600.00
Interest	270.00
Auction	800.00
Refreshments	270.00
Door Prize	2,079.00
Field Day	200.00
Misc Merchandise Sales	150.00
Holiday Party $10 X 85 Attendants	850.00
Picnic	150.00
Education	140.00
Pacificon	6,000.00
Total Income	**23,509.00**

Minimum Operating Expenses	2004
Advertising	600.00
Bank Charge	12.00
Carrier Printing approx $160/mo	1,920.00
Carrier Postage approx $73/mo	876.00
Directory	775.00
Door Prizes	1,952.00
Membership Dues Expense	560.00
Liability Insurance	1,198.00
State Filing Fees	30.00
Rent & Coffee $75/mo	900.00
Office Expense	250.00
Telephone about $17/mo	204.00
Move phone line from Dick S. house to Tim K. house to be used for answering machine and DSL Line	35.00
Speaker Gratuities $18 X 9/mo	162.00
Auction Expense	150.00
Education	250.00
Field Day	600.00
Picnic	204.00
Annual Dinner Awards Plaques	100.00
Annual Dinner Decorations	100.00
Annual Dinner Food	650.00
Emergency Services	100.00
Subtotal	**11,628.00**
Website Paid For 3 Years $35 Per Year In 2001	70.00
Total Membership	**11,698.00**

Repeater Expenses	2004
RRRG Operations	
Northgate and NARCC Dues	300.00
Insurance, Equipment	620.00
Telephone	204.00
DSL Line 1.5M Down / 768k UP $90/mo	1,080.00
*Tower Lease $531 Per Month $540 After 8/03	6,480.00
Maintenance	1,000.00
Office Supplies and postage	25.00
Tower Climber	1,200.00
Total Operations	**10,909.00**
Capital Projects Authorized In 2003	
Voter System	500.00
ATV Controller	500.00
Lantronics UDS200-2 10baseT to Serial Converter	200.00
Total Capital Projects	**1,200.00**
Total Repeater Operating Expenses	**12,109.00**
Total Expense	**23,807.00**

MDARC Budget Totals	2004
Total Income	**23,509.00**
Total Expense	**23,807.00**
Total Projected Net / Loss	**(298.00)**

Board Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2004

The meeting of the board of directors of MDARC, held at Bakers Square Restaurant in Concord, was called to order by president, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the January 5, 2004 meeting were approved.

Board Members Present: Bob Beard, KG6FPZ, Jay Caldis, KT6Y, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Harold Johnsen, AE6FC, Dana Jones, K6BRR, and Dick Schulze, AA6DL.

Other Members and Guests: Jerry Gardner, W6UV, Keith Lattin, N6PMF, George Roush, WB6OFH, and Pete Slagle, K6XL

Calendar of Events: Trevor announced that all of the general membership meetings for 2004 will be held on the third Friday, except for the June meeting which will be held at the Field Day site on June 25th. The board meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month except the September meeting which will be on September 13th. Dana Jones will prepare, for publication in the *Carrier*, a calendar showing the meetings as well as other club related events including emergency services training.

Budget for 2004: The treasurer, Harold Johnsen, presented the revised budget. The proposal to purchase another digital projector was not included in the budget. Should another one be needed, the PACIFICON committee will submit a request and ask for membership approval. On the motion of Bob Beard, the board approved the budget for submission to the membership.

Membership: Membership cards will be sent to new members as they join and the cards for the renewing members will be sent with the March *Carrier*. Renewal notices will be sent in December.

Holiday Party: The board set holiday party for the third Friday of December to coincide with the regular membership meeting.

Auction: Due to disposal problems, the board is considering banning CRT's from the auction but decided to leave the issue to the auction chair to control dumping of CRT's and other valueless equipment.

Field Day: Keith said we may have a wi fi Internet connection at field day, via north peak of Diablo.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Secretary

ARRL to Propose Code-Free HF Access

(January 20, 2004) ARRL

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement—now 5 WPM-only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals—developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July—are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's religious debate."

The entry-level license class—being called "Novice" for now—would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees—now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs—would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees—Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General—would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

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Net Control: KG6MDW

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West County	145.110/- Rich Parker, KD6JCT

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PHOENIX, AZ
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord
February 20	7:30 pm	MDARC Monthly Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
February 29		March *Carrier* Deadline	
March 1	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
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